

**TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**  
**Easton Town Hall**  
**14 S. Harrison Street**

August 17, 2009

**PRESENT AT CONVENING**

8 Mayor Robert C. Willey	11 Councilmember Pete Leshner
9 Council President John F. Ford	12 Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski
10 Councilmember Kelley K. Malone	13 Councilmember Megan M. Cook

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Also in attendance were the Town Attorney Ms. VanEmburch, Town Manager Mr. Karge, Town Planner Mr. Hamilton, Director of Economic Development Mrs. Maureen Scott-Taylor, Mrs. Carol Callahan, Finance Officer and Town Clerk Ms. Ruf.

**CONVENING**

At 7:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order.

Ms. Malone opened the meeting with prayer and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, minutes of the August 3, 2009 meetings were approved as written.

**MS. JACKSON-AMIS/FRED'S ARMY TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING STATUE**

Ms. Jackson-Amis was present to discuss the Council's decision to no longer be the fiscal agent for Fred's Army. Ms. Jackson-Amis stated that she believes that the County Council is delaying the final approval of the Frederick Douglass statue in order to jeopardize grant funding. She stated that she considers actions by the Town Council to be retaliation due to what she perceives to be discriminatory practices.

Ms. Iris Whiting was present to address Council regarding her dissatisfaction with the Council's decision related to their association with Fred's Army.

**ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY**

Mayor Willey advised that he will be hosting a tour and lunch with Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley from Cambridge tomorrow.

Mayor Willey stated that the fields at Idlewild Park need to be reseeded. He stated that Mrs. Gould, Director of Parks and Recreations is working on a grant for the RTC property to do walking paths and grading.

**MR. COREY PACK, TALBOT COUNTY COUNCIL TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Mr. Pack was present to discuss the County's position regarding the Frederick Douglass statue. He stated that the County has not approved the final design of the statue. Mr. Pack stated that the County Council has sent a request for additional information to Fred's Army but they have not received the essential details. Mr. Pack stated that the County Council is open to moving forward with anyone that will move the project to a conclusion.

**ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER**

Mr. Karge asked for approval for the bid for two 2010 Crown Victoria police interceptor cars from Hertrich Ford in the amount of \$45,966.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously; approval was granted.

Mr. Karge asked for approval for a Public Assembly Event recommended by Easton Police Department for Observation of United Nations International Day of P.E.A.C.E. on September 21, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at Talbot County Circuit Court.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, permission was granted.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Mrs. Carol Callahan, Finance Officer was present to report on the Town's month end financial report. Mrs. Callahan stated that taxes are being received in a timely manner. She stated that the auditors are scheduled to be at the Town office in September.

**ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY**

Ms. VanEmburch asked for a Closed Session following the regularly scheduled meeting regarding §10-508(a) (7) legal advice and §10-508(a) (8) potential litigation.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5954, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVAING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MIDDLE DEPARTMENT INSPECTION AGENCY, INC. TO PROVIDE INSPECTION AND CODE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES FOR ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS FOR THE TOWN."**

Upon motion from Mr. Wendowski seconded from Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, President Ford tabled action on Resolution No. 5954 until the scheduled meeting at the Chamber of Commerce next week regarding permitting concerns from the business community.

**PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN'S ZONING ORDINANCE. THE TOWN HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO MODIFY LANGUAGE IN THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO CLARIFY AND SPECIFY THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL MAY APPROVE MODIFICATIONS TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL STANDARDS PERTAINING TO MAJOR RETAIL USES PROPOSED PUD PROJECTS.**

At 8:14 p.m., President Ford opened the Public Hearing scheduled for 7:15 p.m.

The Town Planner Mr. Hamilton discussed the history of the request from Mr. Showalter. He discussed changes in a Planned Unit Development and supplemental standards.

Mr. Ryan Showalter, Esq., Miles & Stockbridge discussed modifications which he believes need amendment to the text.

Ms. Malone questioned the specific motivation Waterside has in requesting the change in the ordinance.

Mr. Showalter stated that the motivating issue was the desire to not comply with current standards for parking. Specifically, they would like to have parking solely in front of the store rather than the parking design required in the supplemental standards.

Mr. Wendowski stated that he does not want the Council to get into practice of being a planning board.

President Ford opened the floor for public comments. There were none.

President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 557, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE TOWN OF EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE."

President Ford stated that the record will remain open and the Council will receive public comments until the close of business Friday.

At 8:29 p.m., President Ford closed the Public Hearing.

**ORDINANCE NO. 558, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH MARYLAND ANNOTATED CODE, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ARTICLE, SECTION 2-105."**

1 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 558 for a first reading.

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3 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$989,387.68.**

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5 Mr. Wendowski questioned payment to Studio 2.

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7 Mr. Karge stated that it is for the Community Legacy Façade program.

8 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously, invoices totaling  
9 \$989,387.68 were approved for payment.

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11 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

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13 Ms. Malone discussed an upcoming meeting with Corporal Bordley of Easton Police Department and  
14 residents of St. Albins Terrace scheduled for Monday September 14.

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16 Mrs. Cook thanked everyone for participating in the successful National Night Out at Moton Park. She  
17 asked everyone to be considerate of the children as Talbot County schools open next week.

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19 **CLOSED SESSION**

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21 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously; President Ford  
22 convened the regularly scheduled meeting into Closed Session at 8:43 p.m.

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24 **ADJOURNMENT**

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26 Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously; President Ford  
27 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 9:07 p.m.

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30 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk